

The Jacob Stizelberger Pottery, Belleville, Saint Clair County Illinois.

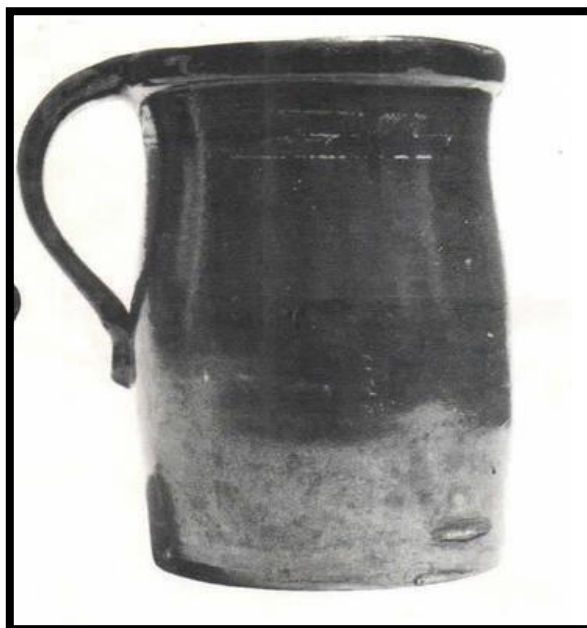
By Greg Mathis

Jacob Stizelberger came to Belleville, Illinois in 1853 and began a pottery at West Spring Street and Franklin Street (today 1st and C St.) Born at Baden Germany in 1826, he immigrated to the United States in 1847 and lived in St. Louis and Saint Charles, Missouri, New Orleans, Louisiana, and Cincinnati, Ohio, where he married Barbara Keller in 1851. They had five daughters: Emma, Lena, Anna, Louisa, and Rose. And three sons: Jacob Jr., William and Henry.

The pottery produced predominantly redware and Albany slip utilitarian ware pitchers and vessels often from native clay from within the sub seller of his home. Jacob Stizelberger died in 1893 and his sons carried on the operation. Jacob Jr. is noted for the manufacture of ornamental stoneware and as an architect being among the staff that designed the magnificent buildings for the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. William Stizelberger ran the pottery during the final years until production ceased at the time turn of the century.

Stizelberger's historical Belleville home was built in 1815 was eventually dismantled by state workers in August 1939. The demolition crew noted the fine white oak used for beams that were as hard as steel, and that precious wood like cherry and walnut were used in window sills.

An elderly resident lady paid a final visit and recalled buying stoneware from Jacob Sr. in 1871, as the State Highway Department workers loaded some stoneware, pottery wheels and mixing equipment of the pottery, for delivery to the Illinois State Museum in 1939.



Half gallon Stizelberger spoutless “measure” pitcher in the collection of the Emma Kuntz House, Belleville History Museum.



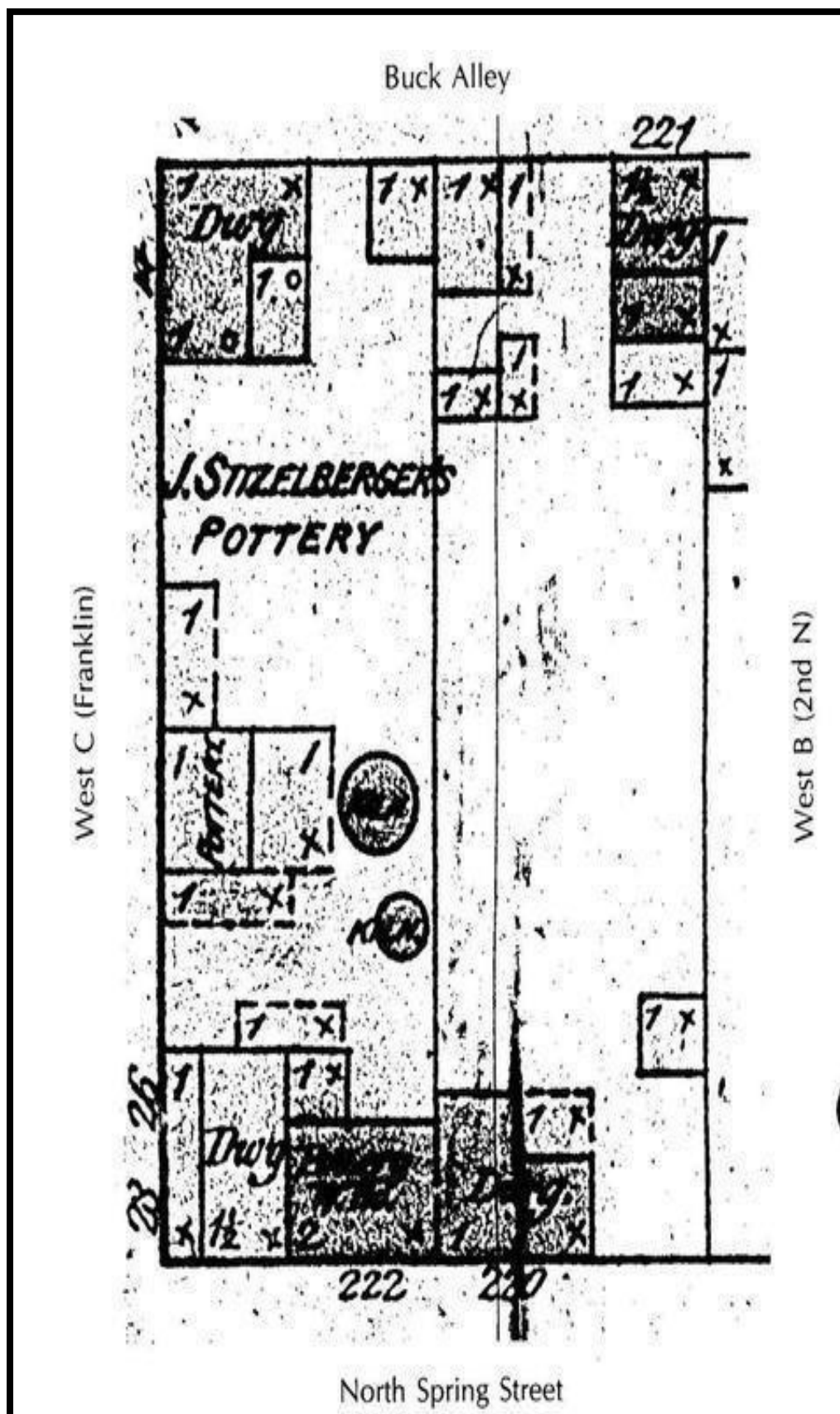
Sample of redware quart, half, and 1 gallon “measure” pitchers.



Vessels often have charred bases from use on stoves.

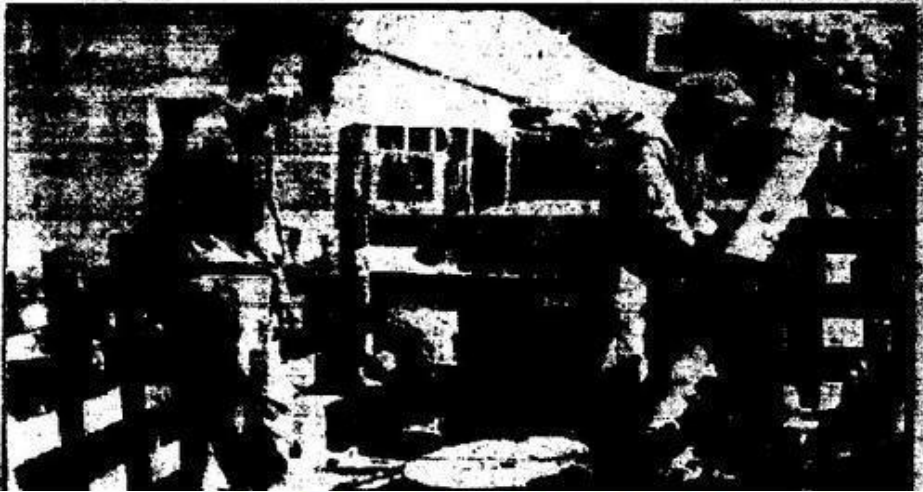


Sample of earthenware of 19th Century Belleville, Illinois, attributed to the Jacob Stizelberger Pottery.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. cc: 1880

Old Pottery Mill Enroute To State Museum



ST. CLAIR COUNTY

(Belleville Daily Advocate, Belleville, Illinois.)

1939, August 2

WRECKERS FIND OLD POTTERY MILL UNDER STITZELBERGER HOME.

Another remembrance of things long past had come to light in Belleville today with the discovery by a wrecking crew of an old pottery plant beneath the Stitzelberger home, one of the oldest buildings in this city at First and C Streets.

In the basement of the home, now being demolished, tools and equipment for pottery making of nearly a half-century or more ago were discovered. Bulk of the find was made in a cellar beneath the level of the original basement of the home.

The very clay of the old cellar itself had apparently furnished materials for the potter of long ago. Part of the resultant diggings had been used as a work place.

PATH OF MULE

Highlight of the discovery was the beaten path where a mule had once long ago walked endlessly in a small circle, turning the equipment.

Equipment found included heavy stone potter's wheels, paddles for the mixing of the clays, and the crushing equipment the mule had turned.

Another unusual find in the old house, which incidentally contains all sorts of odds and ends, are portraits of another era of the families that had resided there.

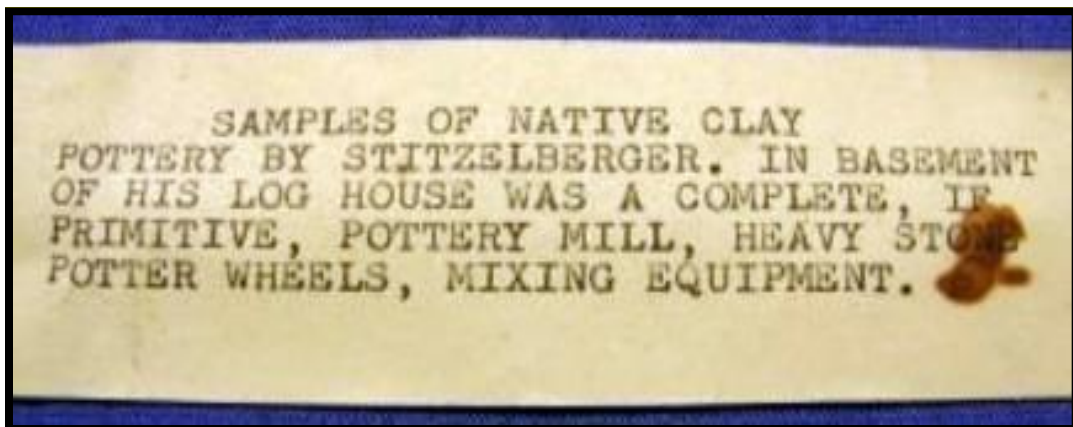
In the clay of the sub-cellar one of the wreckers found the perfect preserved skeleton of a lizard, measuring nearly two feet in length. Even the structure that supported the "fans" along the spine are intact.

The wreckers are reported to have contacted State Representative John L. "Jack" Wellinghoff in regard to having the old mill equipment placed in a state museum.

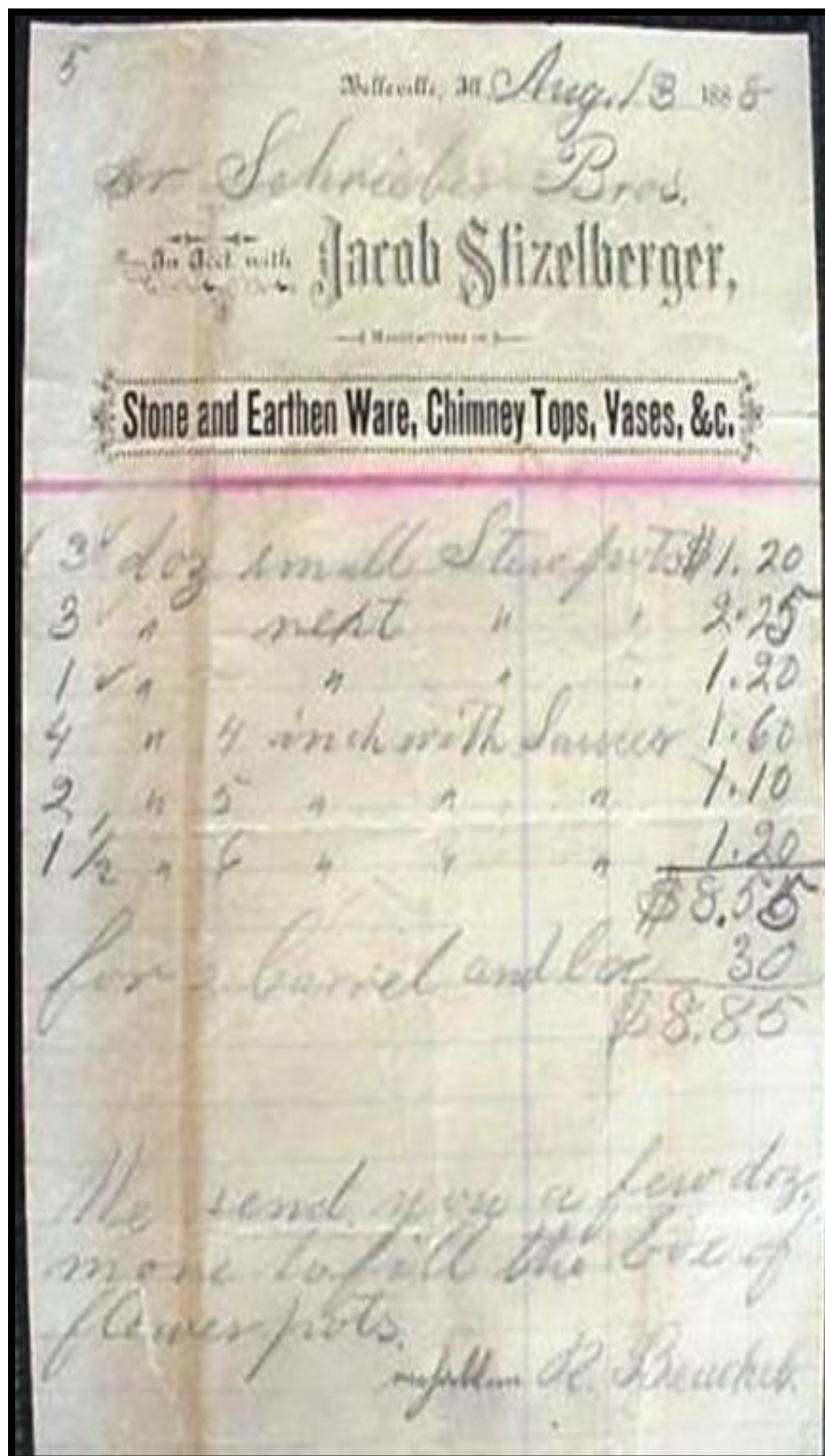




The 1qt tall red ware vase,(left), 1 pt red ware beater jar (right), and small red ware ornamental berry bowl (center), are attributed to the Jacob Stitzelberger pottery. These vessels were obtained in an estate of the residence. A local Belleville historian provided a reference note written about 1939 that was in the beater jar. Message reads "sample of native clay pottery by the Stitzelberger (sic) and basement of the house, along with a complete private pottery mill, heavy stone, pots, wheels, mixing equipment."



Vintage typewritten note attached to small redware beater jar at background (right), when the Stitzelberger house was dismantled.



Vessels shipped to Red Bud, Illinois, merchant Schreiber Brothers on August 13, 1888 (14 dozen items for \$8.85).



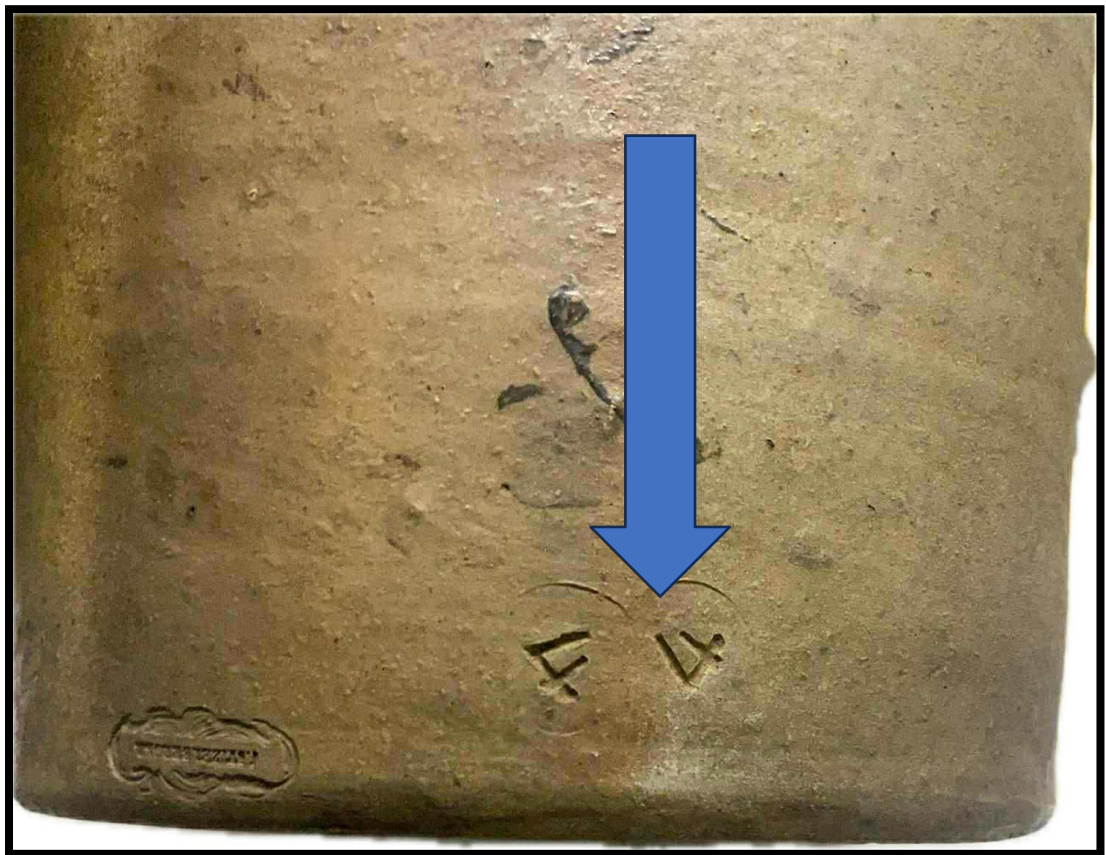
4 gallon redware jar, multi ornately stamped "J. Stizelberger," featuring distinctive impressed "4" capacity stamping and ribbed lug handles.





Multiple ornately bordered manufacturer stamping “J. Stizelberger.”

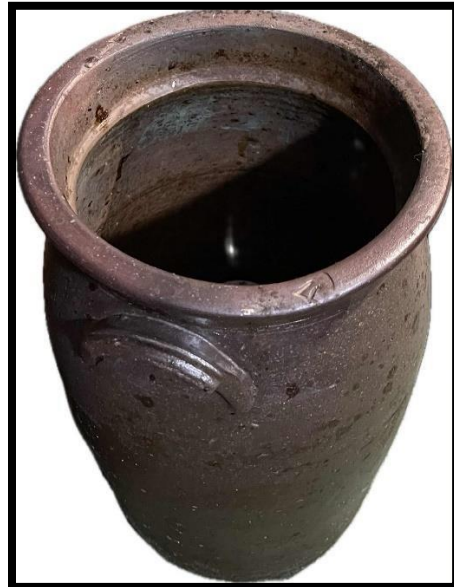
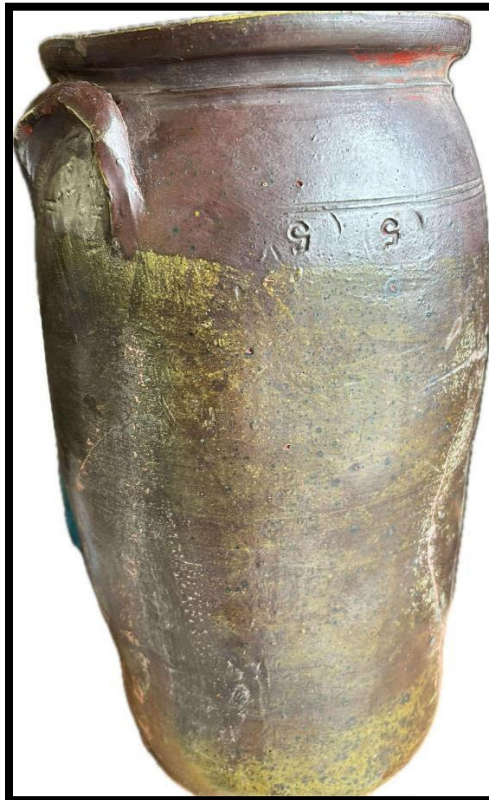




Distinctive Stizelberger impressed “4” and “3” style capacity stampings.



Distinctive Stizelberger capacity stamp edge impressions.
Numerals often, stamped upside-down.



Sample of 3, 4, and 5 gallon Stizelberger redware jars.

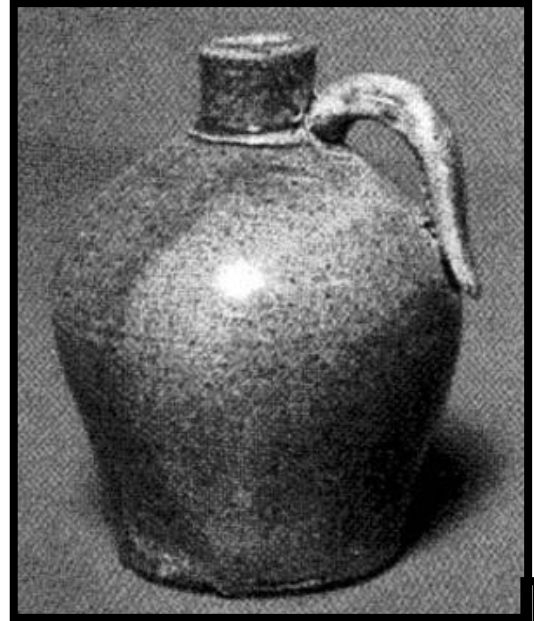


Assortment of redware Belleville vessels.



2 gallon redware necked jar with typeset stamp "Belleville, Ills.," featuring an exterior two-tone Albany slip and sharp everted rim. Belleville potter Carl Stark, resided nearby the Stizelberger pottery at Franklin and Spring Street in 1860, and Carl Duering and A. Roaf were Belleville potters in 1860, and also very likely associated with the Jacob Stizelberger operation.

**Small jugs produced by the
Belleville Clay Mining, Washing, & Pottery Company.
Belleville, St. Clair County, Illinois.**

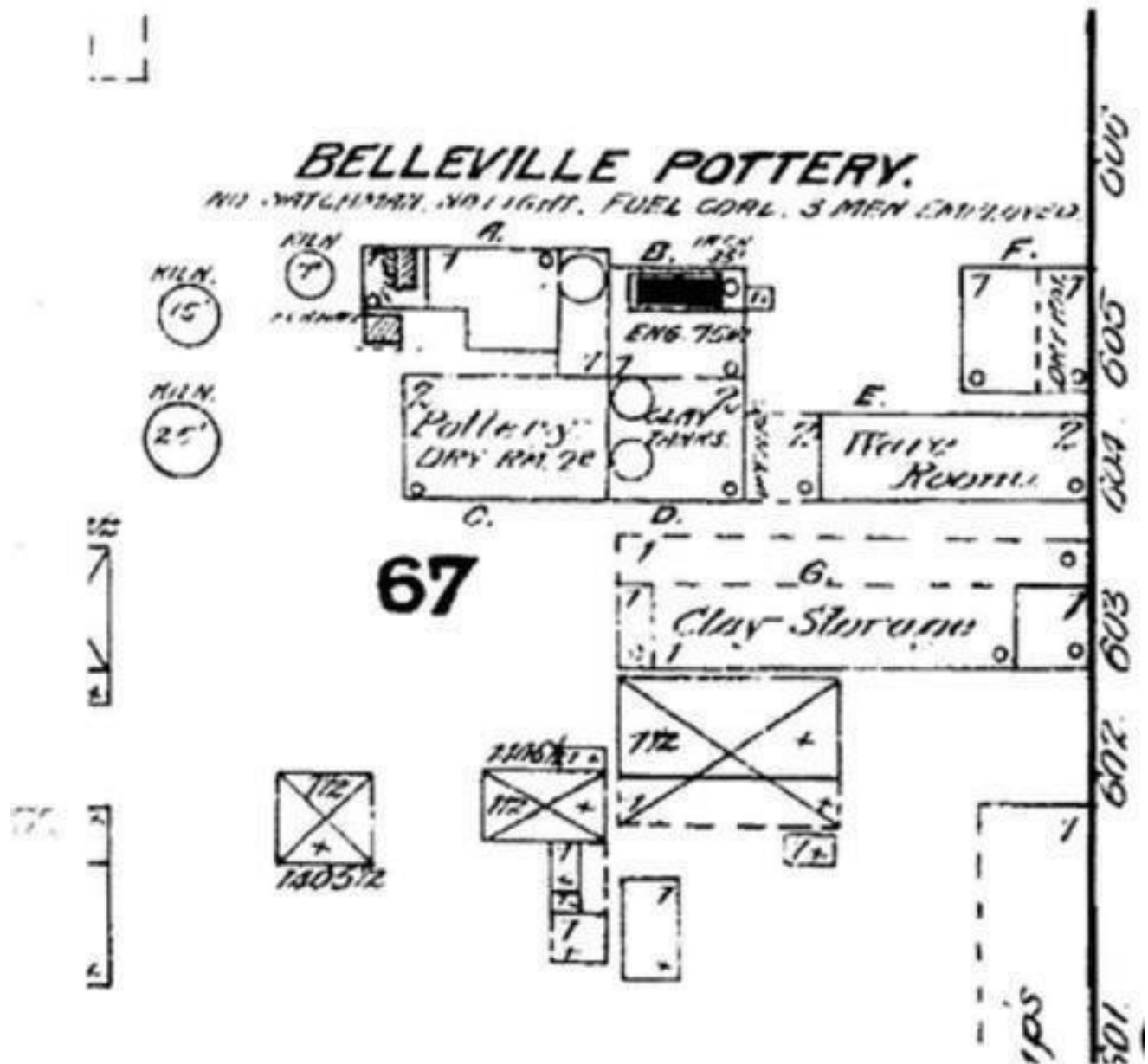


Half pint bulbous hand turned earthenware jug with impressed
base stamp "BELLEVILLE POTTERY."
Note the variance of spout height, handle position, ovoid shape and base
width variance on each of the three hand turned jugs.

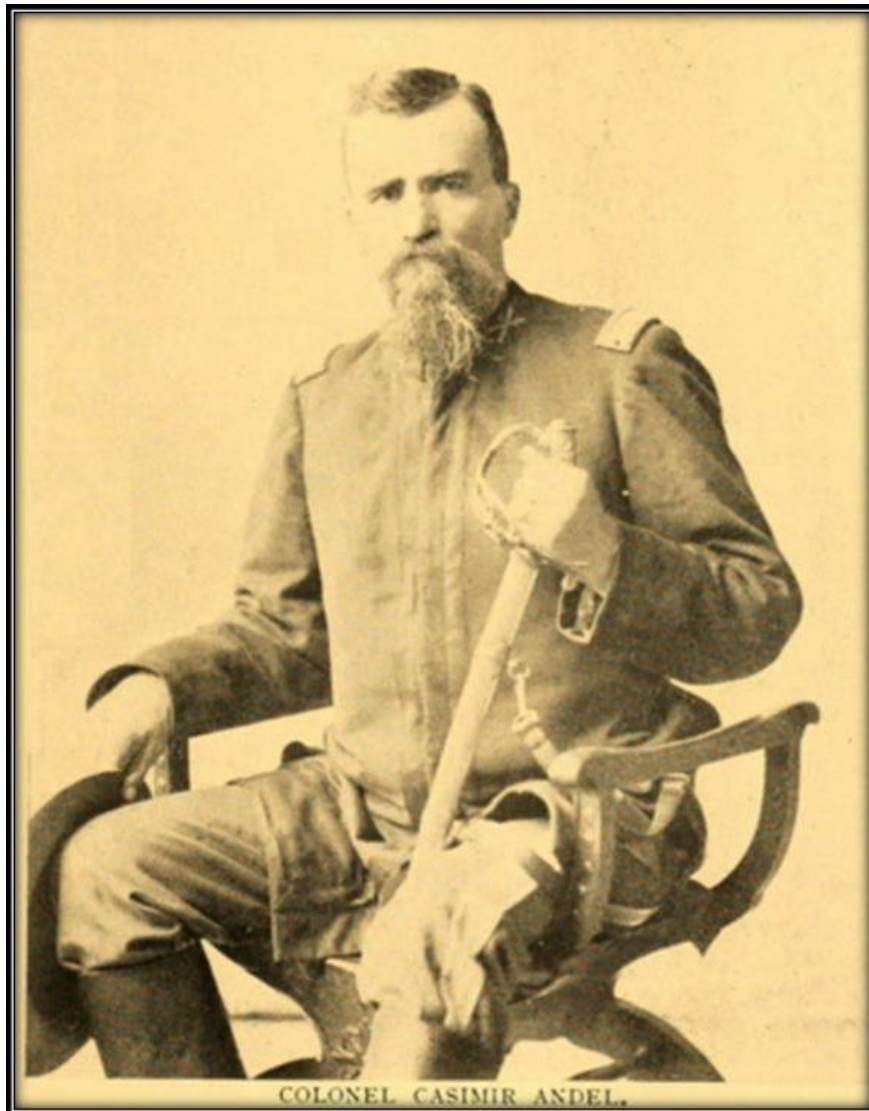


Above photos courtesy of Emma Kunz House'
Belleville History Museum, Belleville, Illinois.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps North ← 1884
600 block of South Third Street



Sanborn Insurance Map 1884.
600 Block of South 3rd Street.
Approximately five blocks south of St. Elizabeths Hospital, Belleville, Illinois.



Colonel Casimir Andel was one of the first citizens of Belleville, and during a period of more than sixty years one of the most prominent and best known men of St. Clair County and Southern Illinois. He was prominent in business, political and military circles. He participated in some of the most hard fought battles of the Civil War, and a soldier in the front line. During the Spanish American War he was commissioned as a Colonel and given command of an Illinois regiment. Following his military service, Colonel Andel was for many years the cashier, and later the president, of the First National Bank of Belleville. In this position he won the enviable reputation and title of a successful business man. The business of the First National Bank of Belleville was built up largely under his executive direction. He was first elected cashier of the First National Bank of Belleville in 1874.

Colonel Andel's Belleville business acquisitions include the Belleville Clay Mining, Washing, and Pottery Company.